

MANY POOR AND ILL AT THEATER PARTIES

Numbers of Big Productions Furnish Entertainment for Poor Children.

TOYS ARE GIVEN AWAY

Estimated That Over 30,000 People Attend Matinee and Evening Shows.

11,000 SEE 'BETTER TIMES'

Numbers of Stage Folk Have Christmas Dinner Backstage.

The theaters did a prosperous business yesterday. Special holiday matinees were well attended, though not to capacity, as Christmas dinners and the unusually mild weather kept a number away. It was estimated that more than 30,000 attended afternoon and evening at the first class Broadway houses. Lee Shubert said reports showed larger receipts than for any preceding Christmas.

The performances of "Better Times" were witnessed by more than 11,000 persons, according to a statement from the Dillingham census bureau, about 45 per cent. of the matinee crowd being children of school age. R. H. Burnside added novelties especially prepared for the Christmas season and distributed souvenirs to the juvenile patrons, a policy which will be followed through the week.

There were more than a score of Christmas dinners backstage between performances yesterday. The largest was given by Mrs. Elizabeth Berio, comedienne of the Hippodrome tank, who gave a dinner for her ten daughters and ten sons-in-law. Six of Mrs. Berio's daughters are appearing at the Hippodrome with her. The other four, now retired, came from Boston for the holiday. Long Tack Sam, the Chinese comedian, and Mrs. Long, who arrived recently from Vienna to visit her husband, gave an American Christmas dinner for the members of his troupe, Marceline, veteran clown of the Hippodrome, commemorated the first Christmas of the big house by doing some of the antics at the evening performance which were a part of his repertoire for the initial show.

Christmas parties were given by leading players in various companies about town. Among those entertaining friends and relatives were Olive Tell of "Whispering Wires," Hollis Devenny of "Blossom Time," Eddie Dowling of "Sully, Irene and Mary," who entertained the members of the company after the night performance, and "The Lady in Ermine" company, which celebrated with a Christmas tree, Walter Wolf playing Santa Claus.

The chorus of one hundred girls, who have been rehearsing for two weeks for the new revue which will open the Winter Garden, were given a three days' vacation over Christmas.

The Palace Theater sent the whole Punch and Judy marionette show, Randall's Island to entertain the children in the defective ward there. Children suffering from infantile paralysis at the Broad Street Hospital were entertained by Keith artists. Actors and actresses were assigned to dozens of hospitals, asylums and refuges throughout the city. At noon, a free concert was given by the Pauley Choristers under Father Finn. In Yonkers artists on Proctor's program provided entertainment for the Jewish, Leake and Watts, and Catholic orphanages.

The Alhambra Theater began its Christmas observance by unveiling a large tree at 12th street and Broadway at noon, distributing among poor children of Harlem gifts and toys which merchants of the neighborhood had been piling up for this purpose for a fortnight. At the Royal Theater Santa Claus distributed toys and useful gifts among the tubercular children of St. Joseph's hospital and the wards of the Bronx Children's Society. At the Riverside Theater Bert Levy, cartoonist and monologist, started the ball rolling with a party arranged by Manager N. W. Herr for children of the West Side. Here, also, there was singing by the People's Community Chorus under the direction of Sam Miller. The Fordham Theater sent its entire orchestra and a complete program of Keith acts to the Montefiore Hospital, and, cooperating with the Rotary Club of The Bronx, distributed clothing, candy and toys to needy children of the neighborhood.

At the Prospect Theater, Brooklyn, 800 poor children attended a special performance, 400 being chosen by the Catholic Big Sisters and 400 crippled children from the Industrial Welfare League, under the guidance of Manager Leon Reimer. At the Brooklyn Riviera there was "a toy machine." Two complete shows were sent out under the direction of W. J. Sullivan to entertain the sick and wounded soldiers of Veteran Hospital No. 81 and of Seton Hospital.

MANILA CHINESE OPPOSE LAW.

Resent Requirement of Change in Bookkeeping.

MANILA, Dec. 25 (Associated Press).—The new "bookkeeping law" requiring all business accounts in the islands to be kept in English, Spanish or one of the Philippine dialects, will become effective January 1, despite the strenuous opposition from the Chinese colony.

The Chinese declared enforcement of the law would drive all the small merchants of that nationality out of business owing to the expense to which they would be put in employing bookkeepers, but the Legislature has finally refused to amend the new legislation.

SPAIN'S MOROCCAN POLICY.

MADRID, Dec. 25.—The Cabinet Council today nominated Miguel Villanueva, former president of the Chamber of Deputies, as High Commissioner in Morocco, after a conference at which the situation was discussed in all its phases.

The Government intends to reorganize a number of troops as soon as possible and reduce expenditure, which are weighing heavily on the nation.

GREAT BEAR SPRING CO.

IDEAL SPRING WATER

TELEPHONE CORTLAND 8090

106 Christmas Drunks Arrested in Washington

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—CHRISTMAS arrests in Washington totaled 131, all but twenty-five of which were due to drunkenness. Of the number seventy-nine failed to appear in Police Court, preferring to forfeit bail.

The record is considered large in view of the drive the prohibition authorities have been making against bootlegging in the last ten days. The large number of bootleggers arrested has led to the belief that Washington would be dry on Christmas.

Most of the drinking parties were staged in the homes of the participants. The cafes did little business, due to the fear of raids. Most of the drunks arrested were picked up staggering home.

ONE MAN EATS FOUR BIG 5 CENT DINNERS

Hero Among Thousands Fails to Reappear in Bowery Line for Supper.

Despite his seventeen years John Parento of the lower East Side is a man in two thousand. He proved that he was yesterday, and the only reason that he isn't one man in three thousand is that a few more than two thousand men were in on the "biklet" turkey dinner served at the Bowery Y. M. C. A., 8 East Third street. Even as it was, the hungry Boweryites stretched a block and a half down Third street for two hours during the "turkey rush."

But to get back to John Parento—well, out of all that vast assemblage of men with habitually narrow belt lines the youthful John Parento was the only one to dispose of four turkey dinners with all the trimmings. And the fourth dinner slipped down with apparently as much ease as the first one! John says that's nothing at all; why shouldn't he eat four turkey dinners for Christmas, since he had four Thanksgiving feasts.

Don't think for a moment because John paid a nickel for each of his four dinners that he didn't get much at each. Everybody had an equal chance and every plate had a big slice of roast turkey, dressing, mashed potato, gravy, cranberry sauce and other vegetables; and pie and coffee and all the extras were chuck'd in. It wasn't any "savory" dinner where you catch a whiff of something like turkey and then get an intimation of pie in the shape of an inch slice of crust.

From 10:30 in the morning until after 2 o'clock the hungryst of the Bowery's hungry filed into the Y with their nickel for the feed. When supper time came around last night the cook at the Bowery Y expected John Parento would be on hand. He reported for Thanksgiving supper.



For the Chauffeur HEAVY OVERCOATS \$32.50

Made of warm, dark, Oxford fabric. A heavy weight that will keep out the cold weather and stand lots of wear. Wool lined.

The models are double breasted style with half belt. Slash pockets and wind shield inside of cuffs.

Chauffeurs' Suits, \$34.50

Coat and trousers, made of worsted whipcord in an Oxford gray; tailored to give maximum service. Four-button sack model with Norfolk pleated back and half belt.

Other Suits, \$28.50 and \$39.50

Extra breeches may be ordered, if desired.

Gauntlet Driving Gloves \$3.24 to \$8.44

Lined with lamb's wool and fleece, with generous sized gauntlets.

Chauffeurs' gloves, lamb's wool lined, \$3.94

Cardigan Jackets, \$8.74

Just the thing for the man who likes to "fuss" around his car. They are all wool and come in black and heather colors. All sizes.

R. H. Macy & Co.

HERALD SQUARE Inc. NEW YORK

BOY LIGHTING TREE SETS HOUSE ON FIRE

Wanted to Surprise Mother by the Illumination, and Succeeded.

BOTH BURNED IN BLAZE

Try in Vain to Put Out the Flames and Firemen Find the Mother in Faint.

Rudolph Ahlbeck, who is 8 and lives at 1334 Prospect avenue, The Bronx, didn't intend to set the house on fire last night when he lighted the Christmas tree while his mother was in another room. He said afterward that he intended to surprise his mother by having the pretty lights all ready for her to look at when she came out of the kitchen, because she had worked hard all day cooking dinner and he knew that she was very tired.

So, while Mrs. Ahlbeck washed the dishes Rudolph struck a match and tried to light the candles on the tree. He lighted two or three of the ones that hung on the lower branches, and then he put his foot in a wagon that he had got for Christmas and tried to light the top ones. But the wagon slipped from beneath him and he fell and as he fell the match and the candles that had been lighted set fire to the drier branches of the tree and to the decorations.

The whole tree blazed up and Rudolph, badly frightened, ran screaming into the kitchen. His own clothing was on fire in two or three places, but before the flames could reach his body his mother wrapped him in her apron and beat the flames out against her own body. Then, with the boy following her, dragging a pall of water, most of which he spilled, Mrs. Ahlbeck ran into the living room. She tried to put out the fire that by this time had spread from the Christmas tree to the walls and ceilings of the room.

Mrs. Ahlbeck sat at the flames with her hands and with table covers, while her son ran back and forth from the kitchen, carrying water in tumblers and in pails which he poured on the fire. But in his excitement he spilled most of it before he got to the flames, so that his efforts did not have much effect. Neighbors by this time had seen smoke and flames pouring from the windows of the Ahlbeck apartment and turned in an alarm, which brought Chief Francis Grey of the Twentieth Fire Battalion at the head of an engine crew and the men of a truck company.

Chief Grey was the first of the firemen to enter the Ahlbeck apartment. He found that Mrs. Ahlbeck had fainted from the heat and the smoke and her frantic efforts to extinguish the fire and had fallen unconscious under the blazing Christmas tree.

The firemen carried Mrs. Ahlbeck and her son into the open air and then sent for Dr. Warshaw of Fordham Hospital. They were able to remain at home after their burns had been treated. The firemen confined the fire to one room.

FEE GRAFTERS PREY ON AUTOMOBILISTS

Change in System Recommended in Connecticut.

HARTFORD, Dec. 25.—Robbins B. Stockell, State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, recommends in his annual report to Governor Lake that a centralized traffic court be established in order to meet complaints that the enforcement of the motor vehicles laws of Connecticut is in too many hands. He said that "the remedy sought is to adopt some plan whereby an arrest for a fee can be made unprofitable." He also charges in the report that well staged drives against minor offenses have been inspired by a desire on the part of officials to convict for fees.

Mr. Stockell recommends that salaried judges, specialists in motor vehicle laws, be placed in charge of traffic courts to eliminate the evils of the present fee system. As an alternative he recommends the reduction of fees to all officials concerned in an arrest.

A better class of chauffeurs, according to Commissioner Stockell, is applying for drivers' licenses.

KING ALFONSO'S CHRISTMAS.

Simple Gifts Exchanged and Eve Passed at Home.

MADRID, Dec. 25.—The King and Queen observed the Christmas eve festival in the same manner as the majority of their subjects, exchanging gifts of simple character and passing the evening "at home."

Private individuals and concerns are not permitted to make gifts to the youthful Prince and Princesses, but among the toys arriving at the Palace this year were a miniature airplane and a locomotive, the handwork of army engineers.

K. OF C. ADDS TO SCHOOL.

The New York Chapter of the Knights of Columbus has acquired the Raiter building at 235-237 West Fifth street, which will be opened on January 2 as an annex to the evening trade and auto school of the Knight at 240 West Fifty-first street. The new building will accommodate 500 students and will do away with the part time sessions at the trade school.

TRAIN TRAVEL WAS HEAVY ON HOLIDAY

Rush Surprises Officials and Makes Extra Trains Necessary.

LULL WAS LOOKED FOR

Schedules Are Reorganized in Haste to Handle Unexpected Throng of Passengers.

The unprecedented holiday passenger traffic through railroad terminals of the city last week was reflected yesterday, even though a lull was anticipated. From 6 o'clock until midnight most incoming and departing trains at Pennsylvania Station and Grand Central Terminal were running in extra sections as provided in elaborate preparations made days ago to handle the crowds. Similar accommodations for extra cars and trains will be made for the holiday throng next Monday.

Trains from Philadelphia and Washington, through Pennsylvania Station, cleared in two sections from 6 o'clock until after midnight. Long Island trains which were annulled during the forenoon hours were added to the evening schedule. A holiday train from Atlantic City arrived last night in three sections.

At Grand Central the midnight express to Boston left in four sections. Through trains from the North and West after 4 o'clock were heavy and filled.

From New Jersey terminals came reports that passenger traffic was heavier than usual. At offices of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western in Hoboken it was said traffic all day had been "better than usual." Three relief trains helped with the crowds until evening and there were preparations then to add two more if they were needed.

Holiday crowds which were to Lakewood came back last night in three extra trains on the Central Railroad of New Jersey. One of these was an all Pullman train. Another special train brought crowds from Atlantic City.

The reason for the unusually heavy travel the traffic men, who have watched Christmas crowds for years, are not ready yet to explain. One man in Jersey City thought it indicated more prosperity than was apparent last fall. Another said it was one of the things that "happen," such as crowds of school and college boys and girls going back home and perhaps meeting father, mother and Uncle Jim here in the metropolis, &c.

"Anyway," this official ruminated, "the damage seems to have been done, as they say, and we probably will not get them all back until some time next week."

SENATOR WALSH URGES COAL COMMANDEERING

Bay State Man Favors Summary State Action.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—State officers should commandeer and distribute coal necessary to prevent suffering, Senator Walsh, Democrat, Massachusetts, said in a statement sent to his constituents and made public to-day.

Prompted by reports of distress caused by coal shortage in New England, Senator Walsh, who said he had received many letters on the subject, took the unusual course of sending a circular letter to his constituents reciting his efforts to prevent a fuel famine.

"I tried to obtain action by our Government," he declared, "at a time when action could have been taken with advantageous results."

"Last summer," he added, "was the time to have compelled the necessary production and distribution of coal. The only immediate relief I can suggest now is for the respective State Governments to commandeer whatever coal is obtainable and apportion it equitably and at bare cost of production and distribution."

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